

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended, the effect of which is believed to overcome the grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (2nd ¶) as set forth in items 1-2 on page 2 of the Official Action.

On the merits, Claims 1-3 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Japan 63-1516 (Figure 3). The argument in support of this rejection is set forth at item 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

Further, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Japan 11-58468 (Figure 1). The argument in support of this rejection is advanced at item 5 on page 3 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over either Japan 63-1516 (Figure 3) or Japan 11-58468 (Figure 1), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,811,037 (Ludwig) at Column 1, lines 46-49. The argument in support of this rejection is set forth in the second paragraph of item 8 on page 4 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the foregoing rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103. Specifically, Claim 1 as amended recites that the apparatus comprises, inter alia, a “tension drive” actuated by “a plurality of piezo-electric actuators,” Further, Claim 1 recites that a part of the linear motor is “substantially surroundingly arranged on at least one tie bar.” Hence, in contrast to the prior art, the present invention utilizes piezo-actuators to press the half-molds FH1 and FH2 into contact when the linear motors L1 and L2 have positioned the clamp plate AP in relation to the support plate TP. An electric signal activates the piezo-actuators P1 to P12, and then the tension plate SP is pressed against the support plate TP, thereby also pressing the half-molds FH1 and FH2 firmly together. Further, the surrounding relationship formerly

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recited in Claim 3 has now been incorporated in Claim 1. A review of the Figures in both of the Japanese prior art reference fails to show the aforesaid claim elements.

Accordingly, the present invention, provides an apparatus in which the transport mechanisms are electrically triggered in a way that requires only a minimum of mechanically movable parts, and further eliminates any need for hydraulic elements or complicated gearing.

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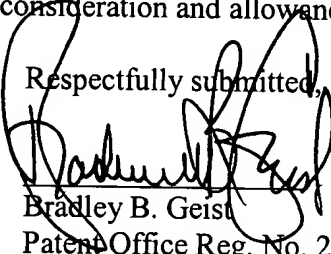
**MARKED-UP CHANGES**

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is **captioned "VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"**,

**CONCLUSION**

For all of the reasons advanced hereinabove, and in view of the amendments to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the Claims

Claims 1 – 3 are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A [surface] pressure generating [device] apparatus comprising a stationary plate[n] and a movable plate[n] which can be moved linearly in relation to the stationary plate[n] by a tension drive along, [further comprising] a plurality of the guiding tie bars, wherein material to be compressed or a mold[s] to be clamped are arranged between said moving plate[n] and said stationary plate[n], [and] further comprising a linear motor having a [primary] part [and secondary parts, wherein the primary part is] thereof which substantially surrounding arranged on at lease one [of the]tie bar[s] , and wherein a plurality of piezo-electric actuators are provided to actuate the tension drive.
2. (original) The surface-pressure generating device according to claim 1, wherein the linear motor is an asynchronous motor.
3. (cancelled) The surface-pressure generating device according to claim 1, wherein the primary part surrounds the tie bar.